

Why are you nominating this officer/deputy? How long have you worked with or supervised this officer?

I have been a resident of St. Charles Parish for a combined total of over 30 years. I have worked for the Sheriff's Office for approximately 20 years total, in Administration for September of 2014 and I've and the honor of the last 6 years to work directly for Sheriff Champagne.

What positions has this officer/deputy held within your agency?

None – He will be in office as Sheriff of St. Charles Parish for 30 years as of July 1, 2026.

Under the specific qualifications cited in our qualifications, please provide example(s) of what has this officer/deputy done that merits their nomination?

I would like to recognize Sheriff Greg Champagne for the 2026 Crimestoppers Officer/Deputies of the Year award for his high personal standards of honesty, integrity, moral fortitude, leadership and selflessness. Sheriff Champagne took office as Sheriff on July 1, 1996, hit the ground running, and never stopped. He has remained steadfast in his commitment to his community, his agency and law enforcement across the country.

Through the last 29 years, Sheriff Champagne has strived to give the men and women of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office the best benefits, working conditions and pay while providing the best service to the community of St. Charles Parish. While doing so, he has remained active in advocating for law enforcement both in Louisiana and across the nation. Whether it's taking the time to reach out to a newly elected sheriff to help them get settled in office or writing amicus briefs on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association to the US Supreme Court regarding issues such as qualified immunity, use of force, or other issues, he selflessly steps up to the challenge to help others.

Sheriff Champagne has been an ambassador for formal leadership training both within our organization as well as speaking of the importance of it to other agencies. He also serves as Chairman of the Louisiana Sheriff's Executive Management Institute which helps sets the training for all Louisiana Sheriffs.

In 2022, Sheriff Champagne began to strengthen his officer wellness programs, to help support the men and women who help others and regularly experience high intensity situations – his employees. Most recently, he partnered with the Thin Line Advisory consulting services to provide a free and confidential resource to all employees where they can call and speak to a licensed psychologist anonymously as a tool for the mental warfare that military and first responders experience on a regular basis. Additionally, Sheriff Champagne has strengthened the Sheriff's Office peer-to-peer support system by having additional employees trained, a formal policy instituted, and instituted better communication across divisions, all to help our men and women of the Sheriff's Office.

Despite any recent setbacks, Sheriff Champagne has marched forward and continued to serve law enforcement locally and nationally without hesitation. He doesn't receive any additional compensation for these things; he doesn't do it for any recognition. He does it because he feels that it is the right thing to do. At times, this means sacrificing precious time with his family or time for himself. Sheriff Champagne selflessly gives his time to others professionally and personally. He is a member of many organizations. He is devoted husband to his loving wife Alice, a father of Rochelle, 29th JDC Judge, and Gregory Jr., commercial pilot and deputy tax assessor; grandfather to five young grandsons.



GREG CHAMPAGNE
ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF

260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway
Luling, LA 70070

Telephone (985) 783-1280
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February 20, 2026

Crimestoppers, Inc.
C/O: Darlene Cusanza, President and CEO
3300 Metairie Road
Metairie, LA 70001

To the Crime Stoppers Awards Selection Committee,

It is my distinct honor to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Sheriff Greg Champagne for recognition at the Crime Stoppers Award Ceremony. Sheriff Champagne has demonstrated exceptional dedication to public safety, community partnership, and the mission of Crime Stoppers through unwavering commitment and exemplary service.

Throughout his 30-year tenure as the Sheriff, Greg Champagne has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to foster trust between law enforcement and the community. He has played a critical role in encouraging anonymous tips, supporting investigations, and ensuring that vital information reaches the appropriate authorities—often resulting in the prevention or resolution of serious crimes.

Some of Sheriff Champagne's most notable contributions includes the implementation of the DARE program in 1989, Operation First Class, the Sheriff's Summer Camp which offers boys ages 12–16 an opportunity to experience structure, mentorship, accountability, and positive social development in a camp setting. The Exploring Crew Girls Camp, a free summer camping experience designed to foster trust, confidence, and positive engagement between young girls and the Sheriff's Office. The annual Citizens Academy, and the Criminal Justice Course where Sheriff Champagne and the St. Charles Parish Public School system partnered to create a curriculum for upper class high school students to choose as an elective engaging their civic minds and the possibilities of seeking a career in government. All have significantly enhanced public awareness, public trust and community engagement.

His unwavering effort to engage and connect with the community has paid great dividends, leading to measurable investigative success, as well as strengthening the public's confidence in Crime Stoppers as a safe and effective resource.

Beyond measurable outcomes, Sheriff Champagne exemplifies integrity, professionalism, and compassion. He treats every interaction with respect and urgency, understanding that each tip represents a citizen's willingness to help protect their community. This approach has made Sheriff Champagne a respected leader and trusted partner among colleagues, law enforcement, and community members alike.

In recognition of Sheriff Champagne's outstanding service, dedication, and impact, I offer my strongest recommendation for him to receive this Crime Stoppers award. Sheriff Champagne truly embodies the spirit and purpose of Crime Stoppers, and his contributions have made our community safer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Ganote
Chief Deputy
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
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jganote@stcharlessheriff.org



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2026

Crimestopper's Award Selection Committee
Crimestoppers, Inc.
3300 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70001

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

On behalf of the **National Sheriffs' Association**, it is my distinct honor to offer this letter in strong support of Sheriff Greg Champagne's nomination for the Crimestopper's Officer of the Year Award.

The criteria for this award read like a creed etched in steel: Honor. Character. Courage. Public Trust. Service to Our Communities. Reverence for the Law. Commitment to Leadership. Integrity in All We Say and Do. Respect for People. Quality Through Continuous Improvement. Sheriff Champagne does not merely satisfy these standards. He embodies them.

Sheriff Champagne has long been recognized by his peers for his unwavering personal standards of honesty, integrity, moral fortitude, leadership, and selflessness. His reputation among fellow sheriffs nationwide is not built on rhetoric, but on steady conduct, thoughtful leadership, and principled action.

Sheriff Champagne's leadership within the National Sheriffs' Association is without precedent. He served as President in 2016 to 2017 and again in 2023 to 2024, becoming the only sheriff in the Association's 75-year history to be elected twice to that office. That distinction alone reflects the deep trust and respect he commands from sheriffs across the United States.

For more than twenty years, he has chaired the NSA Legal Affairs Committee, guiding the Association through some of the most complex and consequential legal issues facing law enforcement. As counsel of record on numerous amicus briefs before the United States Supreme Court, he has addressed matters involving use of force, qualified immunity, immigration, and other foundational issues affecting public safety. In each instance, he has demonstrated reverence for the law and a profound commitment to ensuring that constitutional principles and public safety coexist.

His service extends well beyond committee work. Sheriff Champagne has contributed to the NSA Government Affairs, Global Affairs, Homeland Security, and Border Security Committees. From 2017 to 2020, he worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security on immigration matters and the appropriate role of local law enforcement. He was appointed to represent the National Sheriffs' Association on the National Commission on Forensic Science, helping shape national dialogue on forensic standards and reliability.

Internationally, Sheriff Champagne has represented American sheriffs in counter-terrorism training initiatives in Israel and England, focusing on the detection and prevention of terrorism and strengthening public security. Most recently, in November 2023, he represented the Association during a briefing in Israel concerning the October 7th Hamas attack, engaging directly with international partners on lessons learned and protective strategies. His commitment to continuous improvement in public safety does not stop at our borders.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Champagne has demonstrated courage not only in operational matters, but in leadership itself. He has been willing to engage difficult issues, defend constitutional principles, and advocate for sheriffs and their communities at the highest levels of government. He has earned the confidence of his peers and the respect of the communities he serves.

The Crimestopper's Award seeks to recognize an officer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty and who reflects the highest ideals of the law enforcement oath. Sheriff Greg Champagne stands as a clear and compelling example of those ideals in action.

It is with great respect and without reservation that the National Sheriffs' Association offers its full support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Sheriff (ret.) Justin Smith
Executive Director and CEO
National Sheriffs' Association
Alexandria, Virginia



February 5, 2026

Darlene Cusanza
Crimestoppers President and CEO
Crimestoppers, Inc.
3300 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70001

Dear President Cusanza,

It is with deep professional respect that I offer this endorsement of **Sheriff Greg Champagne**, Sheriff of the **St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office**, for recognition by his peers in law enforcement for his exceptionally high personal standards of honesty, integrity, moral fortitude, leadership, and selflessness.

Within the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Champagne is widely regarded by command staff, supervisors, and deputies as a leader who leads by example and principle. His credibility is earned, not assumed. Peers within the agency consistently recognize his unwavering commitment to ethical leadership, transparency in decision-making, and his willingness to invest personally and organizationally in the growth, education, and well-being of his people. The longevity and sustained participation of deputies and command staff in leadership development, emotional intelligence education, and wellness initiatives speak to the trust and respect he commands internally.

Since first engaging in leadership development efforts in 2010, Sheriff Champagne has demonstrated moral fortitude by choosing long-term culture-building over short-term optics. Thousands of hours of education provided to deputies, past, present, and future, reflect a peer-recognized standard of leadership that prioritizes professionalism, accountability, and service. His peers within St. Charles Parish recognize him as a Sheriff who does not outsource leadership responsibility but embraces it fully.

Among his fellow Sheriffs and police leaders across Louisiana, Sheriff Champagne is respected as a steady, principled voice in the profession. His peers recognize him as a leader who elevates the profession through action rather than rhetoric. The adoption and hosting of an internationally recognized, graduate-level Command and Leadership program, with a strong emphasis on Emotional Intelligence, demonstrates a level of foresight and humility that is consistently acknowledged by peers throughout the state. Many Louisiana law enforcement leaders view Sheriff Champagne as a model for how leadership education, ethical standards, and officer wellness can coexist with operational excellence, serving communities while reducing crimes.

Sheriff Champagne's peers recognize that his leadership philosophy strengthens not only his own agency, but also contributes to the credibility and professionalism of law enforcement statewide. His willingness to openly advocate for leadership development and wellness reflects a selfless commitment to the broader profession.

At the regional and national level, Sheriff Champagne is widely respected among law enforcement leaders across the United States. Through his presidency and leadership within the **National Sheriffs' Association**, he has been a consistent advocate for officer wellness, well-being, and ethical leadership. His peers at the national level recognize him as a leader who understands that public trust begins with the internal health, integrity, and resilience of the men and women who serve.



The adoption of the science of MAGNUS OVEA within his agency further reflects his peer-recognized leadership standard, introducing practical, habit-building tools that elevate daily wellness and performance. This approach has positioned Sheriff Champagne as a forward-thinking leader whose influence extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

Across St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, and the broader United States, Sheriff Greg Champagne is recognized by his peers as a law enforcement leader of uncommon integrity, moral courage, and selflessness. His leadership consistently reflects the highest ideals of the law enforcement oath and exemplifies the spirit and requirements of this award.

I offer my strongest endorsement without reservation.

Regards,

DocuSigned by:
Dr. Manoochehr Javidi
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Dr. Manoochehr "Mitch" Javidi, Founder & Chairman
Readiness Network, Inc. & MAGNUS | One
919.946.0777



Honorary Sheriff - National Sheriffs' Association ~ 2015
Honorary Member of the US Army Special Operations Command ~ 1999
Honorary Police Commander, Santa Fe ISD Police Department, TX ~ 2019
Recipient of the National Tactical Officers Association "Spirit Award" ~ 2019



SHAUNA 'DOC' SPRINGER, PH.D.

February 7, 2026

To the Award Selection Committee,

It is a privilege to offer my strongest and most enthusiastic support for the nomination of Sheriff Greg Champagne for the Crime Stoppers Award. This recognition honors leadership that is forward-thinking, courageous, and grounded in genuine service to both community and profession—qualities that Sheriff Champagne embodies consistently and with uncommon depth.

Sheriff Champagne's leadership is visible in his unwavering commitment to early intervention, prevention, and long-term well-being for the youth and families of St. Charles Parish. He has long understood that the most effective way to fight crime is not solely through enforcement, but through meaningful engagement with young people before they ever enter the justice system.

Under his leadership, St. Charles Parish became an early adopter of Project DARE, implementing the program in 1989 and becoming only the second parish in Louisiana to do so. This initiative has equipped generations of fifth-grade students with the skills to make responsible choices, avoid substance abuse, and resist gang involvement and violence. The sustained growth of the program, and its continued positive reception among students and families, reflects Sheriff Champagne's enduring belief in prevention through education.

That same philosophy is reflected in Operation First Class, the Sheriff's Summer Camp, which offers boys ages 12–16 an opportunity to experience structure, mentorship, accountability, and positive social development in a camp setting hosted by the Boy Scouts of America. By investing in these young men at a formative stage, Sheriff Champagne creates pathways toward resilience, responsibility, and community connection rather than punitive cycles.

Equally impactful is the Exploring Crew Girls Camp, a free summer camping experience designed to foster trust, confidence, and positive engagement between young girls and the Sheriff's Office. Through outdoor activities, physical challenges, and healthy social interaction, this program strengthens relationships and builds a foundation of mutual respect between law enforcement and the next generation.



SHAUNA 'DOC' SPRINGER, PH.D.

In addition to these signature initiatives, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office regularly provides safety presentations and community education programs at schools and local events. Offered at no cost to residents, these efforts are designed to empower community members with practical skills that reduce victimization and promote collective safety. Together, these programs reflect Sheriff Champagne's deeply held belief that public safety begins with education, trust, and proactive investment in people.

While his outward-facing leadership is impressive, Sheriff Champagne's internal leadership within his own department is equally exceptional. In my work as a psychologist specializing in the psychological health and performance of law enforcement and military professionals, I have collaborated with leaders across the country. Sheriff Champagne stands out for his willingness to address mental wellness not as a checkbox or crisis response, but as a proactive, humane, and strategically essential priority.

He has implemented one of the most progressive mental wellness initiatives I have seen in law enforcement by ensuring that all members of his department had access to fully confidential consultation sessions with me, outside of a clinical or diagnostic framework. This deliberate design created a truly safe space—free from documentation, labels, or professional risk—where personnel could speak openly about challenges that deeply affect their lives and performance, yet often fall outside traditional mental health models.

In these confidential conversations, members of the department have shared struggles related to family stress, personal health challenges, caregiving burdens, traumatic grief, relational strain, and the cumulative weight of service in today's America. These experiences may not carry diagnostic labels, but they profoundly influence judgment, well-being, and long-term sustainability in the profession. Sheriff Champagne recognized this reality and acted decisively, demonstrating trust in his people and respect for their humanity.

His leadership has also had far-reaching impact across the state of Louisiana. Sheriff Champagne hosted and convened a statewide gathering of sheriffs, creating space for meaningful dialogue around leadership, wellness, and performance. Through our partnership at the Louisiana Sheriffs' Meeting, he intentionally introduced a more advanced and evidence-informed framework—moving beyond a narrow focus on resilience toward the concept of elasticity, a model drawn from work with elite warriors.



SHAUNA 'DOC' SPRINGER, PH.D.

Elasticity emphasizes flexibility, adaptability, and recalibration across the nervous system, identity, and relationships—an approach far better suited to the realities of long-term service in high-stress roles. As part of this initiative, participating sheriffs engaged in confidential assessments and received individualized feedback within 24 hours, offering insight into how cumulative stress and allostatic load (wear and tear on the body) may be affecting their health and performance. In addition, he hosted a convening for the wives and partners of the Sheriffs of the State of Louisiana at the same conference. During this session, there was a meaningful sharing of resources across wives and partners in a way that was supportive of them and the Sheriffs they love.

In the weeks that followed, I personally heard from multiple sources that these sessions prompted tangible, preventative action. For example, on the part of the Sheriffs who received feedback on their allostatic load, this resulted in some scheduling medical evaluations, paying closer attention to cardiac health and fitness, improving sleep and recovery practices, and making intentional changes to nutrition and caffeine use. Sheriff Champagne's leadership helped normalize proactive self-assessment, reduce stigma, and model what it truly means to care for those entrusted with protecting others.

Sheriff Greg Champagne exemplifies integrity, courage, and service not through rhetoric, but through thoughtful, compassionate action. He leads with moral clarity, humility, and a deep respect for law enforcement professionals and community members as whole human beings. His work sets a powerful standard for the future of public safety leadership.

For these reasons, I offer my strongest possible endorsement of Sheriff Champagne for the Crime Stoppers Award. He is exceptionally deserving of this recognition.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shauna Springer

Psychologist | Author | National Expert in Law Enforcement & Military Mental Health